

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT
FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE
“DRAFT”**

Minutes of a Regular Meeting Held on April 27, 2009

On April 27, 2009, a regular meeting of the RTM Finance & Budget Committee was held in room 119 at the Darien Town Hall with twelve of fifteen members present.

Present were:

Harry Artinian
Barry Baldwin
Charles Brode
Terry Duffy
Ted Hawkins
Bruce Orr
John Price
Anita Rycenga
Bill Smith
Marc Thorne
Reilly Tierney
Virgil Wenger

Absent were: Jack Davis, Andrew Millar and Michael Rudnick

The Chairman, Bruce Orr, called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. Guests present were members of the BOS, Public Works, Karl Kilduff, and most notably Andrea Sangrey of the Planning & Zoning Dept. who was there to field questions regarding the FEMA grant matter. The agenda was accepted - moved by Anita Rycenga and seconded by Bill Smith.

John Price opened the questioning with asking what this is all a part of and if it fits within the Town's overall flood mitigation plan. What will the acquired property be used for? Ms. Sangrey explained that the process begins with the tedious grant applications. FEMA looks at repetitive losses for a property to qualify for acquisition/demolition among other things. There is a cost to benefit analysis done and the application has to fall within an acceptable range in order to qualify. It is required by FEMA that once the structures are removed that the site be restored to open space. This restriction is the best way to mitigate flooding per FEMA. Anita Rycenga made reference to a memo received by Ms. Sangrey dated 2/23/09 that mentioned the parcel would provide another community access point to that field and asked if that meant it would be made into a driveway of sorts, thus covered in asphalt. The response was that it would not, as that would be in violation of FEMA restrictions.

Question was raised as to who bears the cost of demolition and what if underground tank or asbestos, etc. is discovered. Karl Kilduff responded by saying that demolition costs were in the budget and that prior to closing on the sale a Phase I environmental study would be done to reveal such things and the deal would be contingent upon remediation. He also mentioned that the Town would benefit from the acquisition in that it would not need to acquire a parcel to accommodate the Hecker Avenue bridge project.

Ms. Sangrey recapped the numbers as follows:

\$376,000 acquisition costs
\$ 20,000 contingencies
\$ 6,000 tenant relocation
\$402,000 TOTAL

Bill Smith moved to vote to approve the acceptance of the FEMA grants and it was seconded by Virgil Wenger. Two “NO” notes were Harry Artinian and Ted Hawkins all others voted “YES”.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Dated: April 28, 2009
Respectfully submitted,
Anita M. Rycenga, Clerk
RTM Finance & Budget Committee